

1. **(currently amended)** A polyester composition, stabilized against the formation of aldehydic contaminants during melt processing of said polyester, which comprises

(a) a polyester, and

(b) an effective stabilizing amount of an additive combination, wherein the additives are selected from at least two different groups, wherein the groups are

~~(i.) poly(vinyl alcohol) or ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer,~~

(ii.) polyhydric alcohols which are selected from the group consisting of starch, cellulose, a sugar or sugar alcohol, trimethylol propane, triethylol propane, glycerol, sorbitol, pentaerythritol or dipentaerythritol, degraded starch (dextrins or cyclodextrins), maltose or its derivatives, maltitol, maltopentaose hydrate, maltoheptaose, maltotetraose, maltulose monohydrate, D,L-glucose, dextrose, sucrose, and D-mannitol,

and

(iii.) polyacrylamide, polymethacrylamide or an acrylamide or methacrylamide copolymer with at least one ethylenically unsubstituted comonomer.

2. **(original)** A composition according to claim 1 wherein the polyester of component (a) is 95-99.9 % by weight of the stabilized composition; and the additive combination of component (b) is 5 to 0.1 % by weight of the stabilized composition.

3. **(original)** A composition according to claim 1 wherein the polyester of component (a) has dicarboxylic acid repeat units selected from the group consisting of aromatic dicarboxylic acids having 8 to 14 carbon atoms, aliphatic dicarboxylic acids having 4 to 12 carbon atoms, cycloaliphatic dicarboxylic acids having 8 to 12 carbon atoms, and mixtures thereof.

4. (original) A composition according to claim 3 wherein the dicarboxylic acid is terephthalic acid, isophthalic acid, o-phthalic acid, naphthalene dicarboxylic acid, cyclohexane dicarboxylic acid, cyclohexanediacetic acid, diphenyl-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, sebacic acid and mixtures thereof.

5. (original) A composition according to claim 4 wherein the dicarboxylic acid is terephthalic acid or 2,6-naphthalene dicarboxylic acid.

6. (original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the diol portion of the polyester of component (a) is derived from the generic formula HO-R-OH where R is an aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic moiety of 2 to 18 carbon atoms.

7. (original) A composition according to claim 6 wherein the diol is ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, propane-1,3-diol, butane-1,4-diol, pentane-1,5-diol, hexane-1,6-diol, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, 3-methylpentane-2,4-diol, 2-methylpentane-1,4-diol, 2,2-diethylpropane-1,3-diol, 1,4-di-(hydroxyethoxy)benzene, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxycyclohexyl)-propane, 2,4-dihydroxy-1,1,3,3-tetramethylcyclobutane, 2,2-bis-(3-hydroxyethoxyphenyl)propane, 2,2-bis-(4-hydroxypropoxyphenyl)-ethane and mixtures thereof.

8. (original) A composition according to claim 7 wherein the diol is ethylene glycol.

9. (original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the polyester of component (a) is poly(ethylene terephthalate) PET or poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalene-2,6-dicarboxylate).

10. (original) A composition according to claim 9 wherein the polyester is poly(ethylene terephthalate).

11-13 (cancelled)

14. (original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the polyhydric alcohol of group (ii.) is starch, cellulose or a sugar or a sugar alcohol.

15. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the polyhydric alcohol is cellulose or starch.

16. (original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the polyhydric alcohol is selected from the group consisting of degraded starch (dextrins and cyclodextrins), maltose and its derivatives, maltitol, maltopentaose hydrate, maltoheptaose, maltotetraose, maltulose monohydrate, D,L-glucose, dextrose, sucrose and D-mannitol.

17. (original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the polyhydric alcohol is selected from the group consisting of trimethylol propane, triethylol propane, glycerol, sorbitol, pentaerythritol and dipentaerythritol.

18. (currently amended): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the additive of group (iii.) is ~~any polymer which contains a polymerized acrylamide or methacrylamide repeating unit~~ polyacrylamide.

19. (original) A composition according to claim 18 wherein the additive of group (iii.) is polyacrylamide, polymethacrylamide or a copolymer of acrylamide or methacrylamide with another ethylenically unsaturated monomer which is acrylamide, methacrylamide, styrene, ethylene, an alkyl acrylate, an alkyl methacrylate, N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidinone or acrylonitrile.

20. (original) A composition according to claim 18 wherein the additive of group (iii.) is a copolymer of acrylamide or methacrylamide with another ethylenically unsaturated monomer which is a hydroxyalkyl methacrylate, a hydroxyalkyl acrylate or dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate.

21. (original) A composition according to claim 18 wherein the additive of group (iii.) is polyacrylamide.

22. (currently amended) A process for preventing the formation of aldehydic contaminants during melt processing of a polyester which comprises

incorporating into said polyester an effective stabilizing amount of an additive combination, wherein the additives are selected from ~~at least~~ two different groups, wherein the groups are

~~(i.) poly(vinyl alcohol) or ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer,~~

(ii.) polyhydric alcohols which are selected from the group consisting of starch, cellulose, a sugar or sugar alcohol, trimethylol propane, triethylol propane, glycerol, sorbitol, pentaerythritol or dipentaerythritol, degraded starch (dextrins or cyclodextrins), maltose or its derivatives, maltitol, maltopentaose hydrate, maltoheptaose, maltotetraose, maltulose monohydrate, D,L-glucose, dextrose, sucrose, and D-mannitol, and

(iii.) polyacrylamide, polymethacrylamide or an acrylamide or methacrylamide copolymer with at least one ethylenically unsubstituted comonomer.

23. (currently amended) A mono- or multi-layered plastic container or film, stabilized against the formation of aldehydic contaminants during melt processing of said container or film, comprising at least one layer which comprises

(a) a polyester, and

(b) an effective stabilizing amount of an additive combination, wherein the additives are selected from ~~at least two~~ different groups, wherein the groups are

~~—(i.) poly(vinyl alcohol) or ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer,—~~

(ii.) polyhydric alcohols which are selected from the group consisting of starch, cellulose, a sugar or sugar alcohol, trimethylol propane, triethylol propane, glycerol, sorbitol, pentaerythritol or dipentaerythritol, degraded starch (dextrins or cyclodextrins), maltose or its derivatives, maltitol, maltopentaose hydrate, maltoheptaose, maltotetraose, maltulose monohydrate, D,L-glucose, dextrose, sucrose, and D-mannitol,
and

(iii.) polyacrylamide, polymethacrylamide or an acrylamide or methacrylamide copolymer with at least one ethylenically unsubstituted comonomer.

24. (original) A plastic container according to claim **19** which is a rigid bottle.